



Harvest Services

**St James Church:
11 am Sunday 24th Sept**

**St Francis Church:
9:30 am Sunday 24th Sept**



WWW.COWLEYTEAMMINISTRY.CO.UK

Chronicle

September
2023

From the Editors

Sally Hemsworth and Nicki Stevens

It seems a long time since the last Chronicle – we do hope you have had an enjoyable summer and managed to plan lots of things despite the mixed weather.

Many thanks to all who have contributed articles - we have a variety of articles this month, and we hope you find these interesting reading. Of course, we are always looking for new ideas and contributions from readers. Any articles can be emailed to the office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk, but handwritten articles will also be welcomed.

We do hope you enjoy this edition.

Nicki and Sally

HOW ABOUT SOME GAMES - AUTUMN WILL SOON BE WITH US

The darker nights are coming, and autumn will be with us when you read the September edition of The Chronicle.

Uncle Ben has sent us a little game to play (almost like a game of solitaire!) – not using your phones or computers (although a dictionary would be a good idea!) Get a couple of sheets of paper (lined if you need it) and write the numbers 1-26 and the 26 letters of the English alphabet down the lefthand side. Then draw a straight line from top to bottom. This will allow you to refer to the letters quickly. The game is to see how many words can be made using only one added letter. When you have gone all the way through the alphabet you are allowed to add a second letter, or the same letter twice to make a word that sounds the same but is a different word and has another meaning. If you stop at three letters, you will be amazed at how many words that sound the same are contained in this list. Of course, you can go on to longer words.

If you feel like going out and meeting a group of people, how about a game of whist – although at least four people will be needed to make this viable. I am sure we could find a warm corner at the Church Centre! Or do you like playing board games, crib, etc.

Let me know if you are interested in meeting as a small group and I will see what can be arranged.

Sally Hemsworth



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A word from the Rectory: Stewardship September

Part 1

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge..... Matthew 24:45a."

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms..... 1 Peter 4:10"

Stewardship is a frequent topic in Scripture. We find it in both the Old and New Testament. We find it in the Gospels and the Letters to the Churches. It starts with Adam and Eve, tasked to work, to be stewards of God's Garden. It draws to a close in the book of Revelation, where the stewardship of the churches is questioned.

Every one of us is called to be 'a good steward', and September is a good time of the year to focus on this theme. Stewardship extends to every part of life. There is no area that does not come under the scrutiny of the master of the household. Who is that master? At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow (Philippians 2). Jesus is the master.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

The good steward uses everything, every opportunity. This includes practical stuff and money. You will find a second article about money elsewhere in the Chronicle.

Over the last weeks we have talked about the 'Stewardship of Welcome'. It has been great to see hovering near the door, keen to consciously step up the visibility of our welcome. It has been great to see extra conversations happening in the pews as people consciously welcome those sitting near them!

Good stewardship means using every gift we have. Where is some of our stewardship currently this week? There are the very visible and necessary roles that enable our Sunday services to take place. These include offering to

- Read scripture.
- Read, OR write and read, prayers of intercession.

- Add a voice to our singing group.
- Read a story to the children and help with an activity in St Lukes chapel, or at the back of Church, during the Sunday services.
- Assist with the 'technology desk' for recording services.
- Join our team of people who keep an eye out to help others.
- Joining us to pray for growth and blessing on Thursday evenings at 7 :15 pm in St Lukes Chapel.
- To have a cup of tea or coffee in the middle of the week. Could be at home or out somewhere.
- Use some of your time mid-week for bible study and fellowship.

The list goes on. If something strikes a chord with you, do ask about it this week. We will follow up with the questionnaire later in the week. We are hoping that everybody will make a return.



Benson Cottage

CHRONICLE

Editorial Team- Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Deadline for the next edition: **Monday 18 September 2023**

If possible, please send entries by email to Sally at office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk. Paper contributions should be left at Parish Office for the attention of Sally.

The Editorial Committee in no way accepts responsibility for goods or services supplied by our advertisers, errors and omissions excepted.

A word from the Rectory: Stewardship September

Part 2 Finance

In part 1 I wrote about stewardship and the practical world: using our time and energy for growing the Kingdom.

In this part, I need to focus on stewardship and finance.

At the bottom of this page, you will see a chart that shows the ups and downs of part of our bank account (General Fund) that covers general costs of the Church. The solid line shows the amount in that account during 2021/22. The dotted line shows the balance, up until May, this year 2023. You can see we are about £8,000 lower now than last year. This is a real challenge. As a church we spend something like £70,000 a year. Most of this comes from this fund. There is, on average, £1,350 going out of the fund every week or £5,800 a month.

Where does this money come from?

We are a self-financing Church. All our costs need to be covered by our own income. 80% of this comes from the weekly and monthly giving of the congregation. This comes out at about £950 a week. With a congregation of about 70, this averages out at about £14 each a week. Some give more and some give less, BUT EVERY PENNY IS IMPORTANT! AND WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR EVERY PENNY GIVEN.

What is our current challenge?

Since COVID we have experienced a fall in the money raised by 'electronic', and Sunday plate giving. This largely accounts for our shortfall.

What can help?

It is important that each of us prayerfully asks what we can afford to give. These are difficult times, but EVERY PENNY IS IMPORTANT AND WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM.

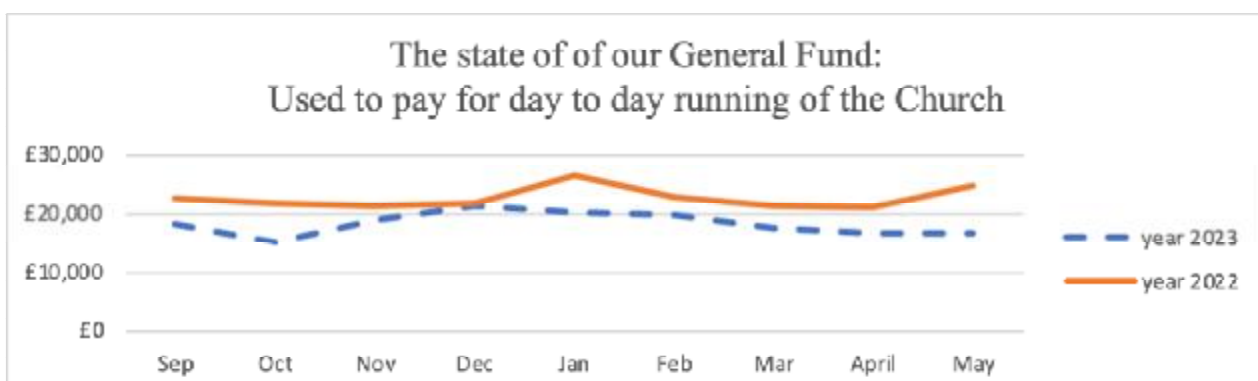
Some people are unable to attend every week. The 'Church Giving Scheme', 'Green Envelope Scheme' or 'Standing Orders' enable our members to support the church every week, even when they are not able to attend. Giving regularly, every week or month, is probably the one most impacting thing you can do!

If you are interested in using green envelopes, or the Church Giving Scheme, please leave your name on the sheet at the back of the church or contact Geoff or Sally Hemsworth!

If you are a taxpayer, allowing us to collect gift aid on your donation means we can collect a further 25p for every £1 you give! This is an amazing help.

If you are not sure if you are signed up for this, please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church or ask Geoff or Sally Hemsworth.

How does this fit into the Deanery etc.?



The diocese has recently changed the formulae it uses to calculate the amount we contribute to cover the costs of being Church. The biggest part of such money covers the cost of Vicars. As a deanery and parish, we are heavily subsidised. This subsidy is slowly reducing and as a result our local costs are slowly increasing beyond the average rate. As a deanery we are finding it very hard to contribute the amount we are being asked for. This is leading us to review the structure we have and the number of stipendiary (full time) vicars we can afford to have. These conversations are 'opening up' this autumn, we will try to keep you up to date with progress and the prevailing ideas.

As always please, Pray, Pray, Pray. Ask God to guide us through these challenging times. Ask him to guide us not just to still waters but life in fulness!



Benson Cottage

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pslam 23

Film Club at the Centre

"Oh, what a beautiful evening (morning)" was enjoyed at our August film evening. The film Oklahoma was our member's chosen favourite musical and they turned up in a crowd to sing along to the well-known songs, enjoy the lovely music and dancing and (as usual) the happy ending. They also donated over £80 to parish funds in appreciation.

There is a change of schedule for the September film as members agreed that "About a Boy", a story about a disaffected

teenaged boy with a completely useless mother was not to their taste.

Instead, we shall be showing Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris. This is a charming film about a very ordinary, middle-aged lady who for years has had a dream to own a designer dress from Paris. The adventure she has on the way to realising her dream makes for a delightful story.

Rosanne Butler

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Simple thoughts and stories for children of all ages

The other day I was working at my computer, really doing nothing in particular, and because I had a little 'spare time' I decided that I would look for and listen to some music videos. You can find all kinds of music on 'YouTube' and I like to hear familiar tunes and songs played by, or sung in different ways. Often you will find Nursery Rhymes played by an orchestra in a very serious way or even dance themes played on a church organ! I once heard 'In the mood' played in a very serious manner on the organ by an adventurous young organ scholar at Cherry Hinton, (Cambridge) URC as a voluntary during the Youth gathering, service! He was even congratulated by a member of the congregation afterwards on how well he played the organ, but the church member thought they recognised some of the piece, but couldn't quite remember the name of it!

What I found quite by accident made me think. Not a bad thing anyway when you have nothing else to do. It was a recording made by a choir during the 'pandemic'. (You remember, when you weren't allowed to go out to meetings or have friends round.) The recording started with only one singer with a pianist, but at the end of each verse another part of the choir joined in, but they were in different parts of the country, singing together. Whilst it was a lovely song, sung beautifully by the first singer, as the choir became larger and more together, the better it was, even though they were blending different parts of the tune with lovely harmonies. There are other recordings

including different instruments as background but all working together.

Some of you will be going to different schools or even starting work in this great big world and it may seem strange at first. You may feel that you are alone, but you aren't really, just a part of a very large family. Most of us find that it is as though we are the only one with problems. Or we are the only one who is right and all the others want to do something differentin *our* opinion. But if we work together, in harmony as they say, just like the choir, we will not only sound better but be happier. It's boring listening to only one note and calling it a song in the same way that a complete 'peal' of bells in the church tower sound so much better when they can all be ringing, preferably not all at the same time, playing their part. Sometimes we are not on the right path and so we need to change our plan.

On the other hand, if you have a choir, or a peal of bells and one is missing, or misses a beat, the whole piece is not so good as it could have been. While we can be great on our own, together we can be terrific. We just have to work hardtogether. Take care till next time

UNCLE BEN

* the title of the song is 'From a distance'. Look it up. Worth listening to, and it was written in two hours!

POEM

A DAISY CHAIN

A daisy sat on the dewy grass
And trembled as heavy boots went past.
Then, little sandals arrived instead.
"Granny, look at the daisies", a child's voice said.
"Oh, let's make a daisy chain," cried the grandmother,
"We just have to join them one to another."
The little girl wondered how this could be.
"I'll show you, my darling, just watch me."
The stems were split, the heads pushed through.
The child was enchanted as the daisy chain grew.
"Now, what shall we do with it, Granny?" she said.
"Oh, it would look lovely crowning your head."
A photo was taken on that bright summer day
"To capture the moment" the Granny would say,
When a daisy chain lay on her granddaughter's curls
More beautiful than a tiara of pearls.
But daisies and grandmothers don't last forever,
And the picture became a little girl's treasure.
For the rest of her life, it would always remain
A precious memory of her first daisy chain.

Rosanne Butler



A man stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain and injustice in the world.

"Dear God," he cried out, "look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in your world. Why don't you send help?" God responded, "I did send help. I sent you."



A pastor was talking with Jesus one evening. He had concerns over the finances of the

church he led. The Lord quietly said 'The Church has the money it needs. It is in the pockets of the membership!'

OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We offer free helpdesks to anyone wanting help with researching their family history, whether in Oxford or beyond, across Oxfordshire. There is a helpdesk at the Oxfordshire History Centre, in Temple Road, Cowley, OX4 2HT. We are there on Tuesdays, from 10am to 4pm. There's no need to book a session - just come along. There's limited parking. It's a good idea to bring details of what you know already, and hopefully our advisors can help you make exciting discoveries about your ancestors.



Anyone unable to get to the History Centre is welcome to email help@ofhs.uk or ring 01865 358151.

Wendy Archer and Angie Trueman
OFHS Publicity Co-ordinator and Webmaster

READER'S LETTERS & ARTICLES

Reading Rosanne Butler's excellent article in the Chronicle over the last few months regarding her wartime memories reminded me of my own time with family just after the war. I feel it is fraudulent to say 'my own wartime memories' as I was born in October 1946 and therefore am blissfully unaware of most of the horrors and hardships which my older brothers and sister went through when the war was progressing. They suffered the bad experiences which I didn't, such as enforced schooling on Saturday mornings to make up for the schooltime lost whilst in the air-raid shelters during the week – and having no father present for much of the time of war. They went without the pleasure of having sweets or cakes and other delights for years. The following accounts of incidents which happened were passed on to me by my mother:

My family lived in Hayes, Middlesex (close to London) and my father was in the RAF at St. Athan, Wales, for nearly the whole duration of the war, being involved with the development of radar and electronics. Every night, after their tea at six o'clock when the air-raid siren sounded, my mother led my two brothers and my sister down to the Anderson Shelter at the bottom of the garden – where they spent the whole night until the 'all clear' was given the next morning. Yes, *every* night!

During one restless night the family heard a *doodlebug's* engine cut out. They all crouched down in the shelter awaiting the outcome. They did not have long to wait, for a massive explosion followed which shook the very earth. On leaving the shelter after the 'all-clear' they were horrified to see remains of people scantily strewn around the gardens and field. It appears that the 'Flying Bomb' had landed a direct hit on The Gramophone Company's (HMV) shelters which had been providing cover for some of the workers. Ironically, it was said that if the workers had stayed at their benches, they would have survived the blast because the shelters were some way off from the factory. *Such is war!*

Earlier in the war, before my father was 'called up' to join the RAF, he continued in his employment at 'The Gram' as it was known and came home for his lunch (which was always called dinner then). One day my mother thought he was a bit late and stood on the back doorstep to see if he was coming. Suddenly, a mighty roaring ensued overhead and she looked up and was horrified to see a German aeroplane flying very low, just above the road, and seeming to be heading straight for her! The pilot was firing a gun at the windows of the houses as he passed. When she saw the black crosses underneath the wings as he passed overhead, she 'turned to stone,' and nearly fainted. A few minutes later dad came down the alley on his bike, quite oblivious to the incident. It was discovered later that the pilot had been forced down by one of our aircraft and had carried on firing at the shops down the main street. He was himself fired on by the guns at the Gramophone Co. *They* missed him, but he was finally shot down by the Ack-Ack guns on the roof at the Fairey Aviation Company.

For a short time during the war my two brothers and sister had school dinners. They hated them! Stories came home about the potatoes being mashed with sultanas and raisins (really?) It was said that was an attempt to try and get the children to eat their potatoes. For 'afters' they said that the tapioca pudding resembled 'frogspawn' and was not touched by the children at all. (I wonder if the problem stemmed from them having been too well-fed at home prior to the war?)

Because mum was bringing up three young children on her own, (dad in RAF) she received a 'parcel' from Australia which contained among other things a tin of jam and a large woollen blanket made from knitted coloured squares. This blanket was still in use in 1970's.

Rationing still existed on certain things well after the war as food was still in short supply. I remember Sundays during the early 1950's with great affection! That was the day reserved for us to have what food wasn't available throughout the rest of the week. I have given a little chart below.

| Weekdays | Sundays |
|---|--|
| Saccharine | Sugar |
| Margarine | Butter |
| Tea | Coffee (Camp coffee essence) |
| Bread and dripping | One boiled egg with 'soldiers' |
| Sausages or cold meat/stew (<i>from Sunday roast</i>) | Roast dinner |
| Bread and 'marge' | Bread, butter and jam (if available) |
| Meat/fish paste (Shippham's or Prince's) | Fruit jelly (Chivers or Hartley's) |
| | Evaporated milk (Carnation or Libby's) |
| | Cake |
| | One boiled sweet at bedtime. |

One day the old lady who lived next door came in and my mother asked her what she was having for her lunch. "Oh," she replied. "I got twopenn'orth of cod's heads yesterday and I'm going to pick off the meat from round the eyeballs with a pin – lovely!" Mum never asked again!

Rationing seemed to have a long-lasting effect on my mother after the war because she would always insist on taking a quarter pound of tea, a bottle of milk, 2lb sugar and a tin of fruit with us whenever we were invited to other people's houses for tea or for the day. This originally was so we didn't impinge on their rations, but she seemed incapable of breaking with tradition. (Sally, my wife, reminds me that she even brought these 'necessities' to us when she came over, well into the 1980's). Old habits die hard?

I remember:

Going to the 'Food Office' to renew the ration books.

Playing 'shops' with the old ration books.

Going to the Coal Office to order the coal.

Being weighed on the Clinic scales, mesmerised by the weights which slid along the rails.

Large brown jars of cod-liver oil and malt – (Mum probably bought this and it tasted foul).

Getting tins of 'National Dried Milk' powder.

Getting little glass bottles with blue screw-top lids, containing orange juice or cod-liver oil.

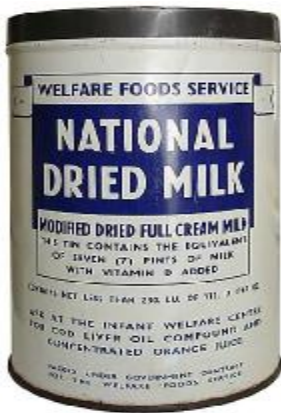
Having a tooth removed and being given 'gas' – and the horrible smell of the rubber mask.

Thanks to my parent's thrift and diligence – all in all – I lived a very charmed life when I was young. I don't think I ever 'went without' or wanted for anything much and lived in a loving family home. It's such a shame that it takes until our own adulthood for us to appreciate just how much our parents give to us throughout our young lives.

Les Hemsworth

NATIONAL MILK SCHEME AND SCHOOL MEALS

A National Milk Scheme was introduced in 1940. All children under five years old and expectant and nursing mothers were entitled to a pint per day for 2d (free in some cases) instead of the full price of 4½d.



In the following year cod-liver oil and blackcurrant extracts (later replaced by orange juice from America) were provided for expectant mothers and young children. These *vitamin foods* were free at first, but a small charge was soon introduced. After the war the Welfare Foods Service continued, along with cheap milk for young children.

Up to July 1940 school meals were a form of Poor Relief, provided only for undernourished children. But then came a complete change of policy. With so many mothers working in war-time industries, the Government encouraged Local Education Authorities to provide subsidised meals for as many children as possible, regardless of their parents' income. Similarly, from September 1941, school milk was provided for all children at a subsidised price, or free if necessary.

There could be no going back on these great advances when the war ended. School meals were provided for all who wanted them, at a reduced price, or free in cases of need and 1/3 pint of milk was given to every child.

In 1968 Edward Short withdrew free milk from Secondary Schools for children over 11 years and in 1971 Margaret Thatcher withdrew free school milk for children over 7 years. This earned her the nickname '*Thatcher the Milk Snatcher*'.



St James Church
Beauchamp Lane - Cowley
the first Saturday
of each month
10:00 - 12:00

coffee – tea – cake
children's activities

**St James first
Saturday café**



historic Cowley parish church - open for you

The Bristol Adventure

Each morning I go out for a walk round the “estate”, by which, I mean our garden. It is a rectangle 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. French doors open to it from the house and there are 6-foot close-board fences either side and an 11-foot high stone wall at the bottom. It is a lot smaller than our plot in Temple Cowley but it is flat. We had a delay in moving in as the stone wall had to be rebuilt as it is protected. It is built of the local pennant stone which varies in colour from red to purple to brownish grey. We did come up to see progress and heavy equipment was moving around the garden areas so we presumed it would be compacted. We also had to wait for the adjacent plot of two semi-detached houses to be finished.

It was all really frustrating as our house, the end of a terrace of four, was complete on viewing last August. Promising a completion date of “winter”, we lived for four cold, wet and depressing months in two AirBnBs.

We moved in on the very last day of March and we are very happy in our quiet corner of the development fronting onto a large green space with mature trees. We had a hectic time unpacking and then an exciting time shopping for things for the house. Thank you so much for those that contributed towards the John Lewis vouchers, they were used against a new dining table and chairs.

Toby, a friend of our son, Tom, came in May to transform our garden space. He put up the bin store, which we had ordered from a local maker, extended the patio seating area, put up a small shed and laid a central circle of slabs. In the centre of the circle is the slot for the rotary clothes-line and where our fire pit stands, when I am not drying washing! Toby also brought in a load of soil conditioner sourced from a local alpaca farmer to improve the heavy clay soil that we have.

We have filled the bin store roof with a gritty compost and have planted sedums and alpines. They are doing well. The rest of the garden is now full of a mixture of flowers and edibles. No lawn. We have a wigwam of runner beans that have been supplying us for the last couple of weeks, 2 enormous, and prolific, courgette plants and tomatoes weighed down with fruit that are just starting to ripen as and when we get some sun! I sowed some annual flowers that are yet to flower as they were late in and I have planted some perennials that came from a nursery just up the road. I have also put in a mini pond but we are still waiting for beasties to find us. I have plans for a small tree that will go in during the Autumn.

Our major setback has been that Graham, my Other Half, was diagnosed with bladder cancer, so, while he recuperates from the surgery, we have not been out and about to enjoy Bristol and its surroundings recently. There is a lot to enjoy on our doorstep, but I will regale you with that another time.

Joan Coleman

OXFORD OPEN DOORS – RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 9 September 10 am – 6 pm

Both churches will be open all day to welcome Open Doors visitors and St/riders as we share our heritage building and our renowned Cowley friendship so we will of course need welcome, tea makers and cake in both churches. At the time of writing, the rotas still have gaps.

The Oxford Preservation Trust has been running Oxford Open Doors for 15 years, an annual weekend where places which are not usually open to the public, open free to celebrate heritage and culture across all walks of the city's life! More than 110 doors are opening for you to explore this year! St James and St Francis Churches are open on Saturday, 9 September – but Open Doors is also being held on Sunday, 10 September – so watch out for the detailed booklet or look on line to see all the places you can visit. <https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/oxford-open-doors>

RIDE AND STRIDE 2023 organised by Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Oxfordshire has a rich heritage of churches of all denominations. Many of these date from Saxon and Norman times, standing as landmarks in their neighbourhoods and providing an important focus of continuity and stability in ever-changing times.

OHCT is an entirely volunteer-led organisation which aims to provide funding to help local communities repair, maintain and improve Oxfordshire's historic churches, preserving them for future generations. The initial involvement from trusts such as the OHCT provides vital encouragement and confidence to church councils and are key factors in preserving these architectural gems.

OHCT also works to increase public understanding of these buildings through a programme of [events](#), the annual sponsored [Ride and Stride](#), and several [publications](#).

<https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

Anyone who enjoys some exercise – walking, running, cycling, scootering, horse-riding - and visiting other churches is very welcome to join those cyclists already registered: John Booty, Lesley Williams (St James) and Jane Coutanche (St Francis)

register on www.ohct.org.uk

The sponsorship raised is shared 50:50 between OHCT and the Parish.

There are paper sponsorship forms for our 3 riders in church – Lesley also has an on-line page and a QR code to take you there

<https://app.goodhub.com/oxfordshire-historic-churches-trust-8735>



ARK-T NEWS

"Dear Friends

Big News! Ark-T is moving to Templars Square Shopping Centre.

We are thrilled to announce that we will shortly be moving into our new premises at shop 101 (opposite the Jungle-themed store- previously Hays Travel) in Templars Square Shopping Centre.

After over 20 years in our John Bunyan Church, Crowell Road Centre, we are relocating to this vibrant new community space to increase accessibility and expand our uplifting arts, community and wellbeing programming. Our new centre will allow Ark-T to be closer than ever to the Oxford community members we serve. We can't wait to welcome you through our new doors which we hope will be open to all by mid-September.

In the meantime, we need your support:

- We are currently looking for donations of paint for the walls, artificial grass for the outside play area, and carpeting for the space itself. If you or anyone you know of, is looking to get rid of extra supplies of these items, please get in touch.
- Also, we need volunteers to help create our new home! No skills needed - just enthusiasm and time over the next two weeks.

Please contact tracey@ark-t.org 07786 706 105 if you can help at all.

Warm wishes

Tracey Schueler, CEO, Ark-T

P.S Watch this space, in true Ark-T style, we will of course have a community celebration event to introduce our new location".

A GOOD READ

An Italian Girl in Brooklyn by Santa Montefiore

Thanksgiving in New York in 1979

Evelina has lived in America for over thirty years. Now, celebrating with her beloved family and friends, she is grateful for all she has. But she is still Italian in her soul - and haunted by all that she has lost.

Northern Italy, 1934.

Young Evelina leads a happy, sheltered life and knows nothing of romantic love. But

when she meets Ezra, son of the local dress-maker, her heart recognises it like an old friend.

But these beautiful summer days cannot last forever: dark clouds are gathering on the horizon. War is coming to Europe and precious lives are under threat.

A lovely gentle book.

Chris Woodman

Transform Trade

TRANSFORM TRADE

From the CEO : TRAIDCRAFT IS COMING BACK!

This is a sentence I never thought I would write: we are approaching the dawn of a new Traidcraft – under the care of Transform Trade. Even as I say these words, I feel cautious, because launching this is no small task.

We are starting with a few pieces, and aiming to restore something of the positive, world changing force that was Traidcraft.

While we *won't be* launching a new Traidcraft shop, we are seeking to restore three things under the Traidcraft brand:

1. A route to the UK market for the world's most ethical, pioneering and impactful producer groups.
2. The Traidcraft mark to pioneer new fair trade products and promote fairness in supply chains which can't yet access the Fairtrade mark.
3. A small range of the best-loved Traidcraft products - including the classic Traidcraft tea blends.

Thank you so much for everything you do to support ethical trade.

Charlotte Timson
CEO, Transform Trade

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS



Our MPs are waking up to the need for greater regulation in the UK fashion sector, but not quickly enough. Your skills and effort can help them take notice.

Transform Trade would like you to join in a craft project that could change an entire sector.

Introducing... THE 1000 DOGS PROJECT

With your help 1000+ handcrafted dogs will arrive on the desks of MPs all across the country. Each will come with a message calling for a fashion watchdog to hold UK clothing brands to account for their actions. Every new MP who pledges their support is a huge victory - it's one step closer to positive change in the sector. Your crafting could be the thing that convinces them. Here's how to get involved:

<https://www.transform-trade.org/1000-dogs>

3 steps to follow



Get creative

Make a fashionable dog, (that is a dog wearing some clothes) small enough to post. Design it to get your MP's attention – something fun and memorable.

You could knit it, stitch it, sculpt it, cut out and colour it... even make it from a sock!



2. Download the letter

Download the 1000 dogs letter template for your MP. Take a minute to personalise it before printing it out. (contact Lesley Williams if that is not possible and she will do it for you)

This message is crucial - it sets out the key details of why a fashion watchdog is so important and how it could change things for the better.

3. Send it

Once you've crafted your fashion dog and printed your letter, all you need to do is [find your MP's details](#) and send it out: here they are for most parishioners:

Anneliese Dodds who has not yet pledged so we should persuade her

Unit A Bishop Mews

Transport Way

Oxford OX4 6HD

phone: [01865 595 790](tel:01865595790)

email: anneliese.dodds.casework@parliament.uk



Then email Transform Trade at campaign@transform-trade.org to add your contribution (ideally with a photo) to the 1000 dogs target!

Vocations Drop in Hour

Wednesday 13th September 2023, 7.30 - 8.30 pm

Come and chat with people from the Diocesan Vocations Team about any aspect of calling to lay or ordained ministry. May also include interviews, guests, and discussion segments. Open to anyone whatever your calling, or stage. Register for a Zoom link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vocations-drop-in-hour-tickets-710193075607?aff=oddtcreator>

Prayers and best wishes

Nicholas Cheeseman
07391 416088

Area Director of Ordinands (Berkshire & Oxford)
Diocese of Oxford www.oxford.anglican.org

From the Archives

SEPTEMBER 1962

COWLEY'S CHURCH ARMY PRESS

Fifty-seven years ago in 1905, the Church Army Press, then delightfully termed 'a printery', came to Cowley, after having begun its life in Salisbury Mews, London, 12 years earlier.

Since then, the work of its craftsmen has spread the word of God throughout the world.

Nothing can be more significant of the aims and purpose of the Church Army Press than the beautiful stone doorway, still part of the premises, the apex of which is the chief remaining relic of the Knights Templar's preceptory, whose aims to protect and help the weak and suffering also have their origin in *a life of dedication*.

The June '62 issue of *The Church Army Review* gave an interesting account of the development of this printing establishment, making it clear that today almost every religious organisation in this country finds a use for its services at some time or another.

The Vicar-General of Songea, Tanganyika wrote "I want the Church Army to know how grateful we are. The beauty of their work reminds one of medieval craftsmanship which counted no pains too great to take, because it was all done to the glory of Almighty God."

The publications of the Church Army Press are indeed evangelistic weapons, used in many different countries.

Run under the leadership of Mr. Leslie Hawes, the present Press is a most pleasant place to visit, and there must be many passers-by on Temple Road, Cowley, who have never stopped to wonder how such a world-famous evangelistic society came to have its own printery.

It was once called 'The Factory in the Fields'. *Fields*, did you say, right here in busy Cowley?

Yes! The Church Army Press stood just where it does today where it still has its offices in the old stone farmhouse with flagstone floors.

A VERY GENEROUS GIFT

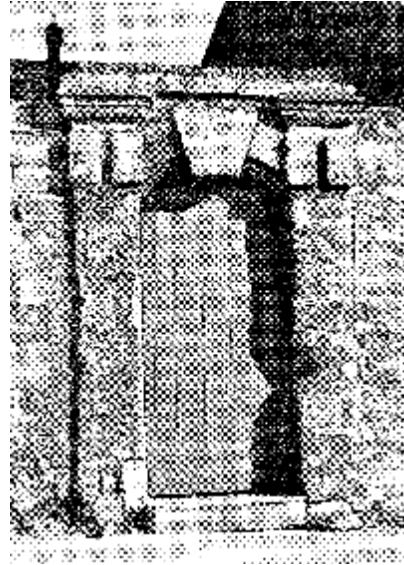
Inserted into the inside wall of the old farm which houses the Church Army Press is a tablet bearing these words:

'These works after being lent for 30 years free of rent were presented to the Church Army in its fiftieth year as a memorial to Winter Williams, M.A., Barrister at Law, and his sister. A.D. 1932'

Also, on the front of the farm, above the first-floor windows, is a small 'badge'. This was the plaque issued by private fire insurance societies before the days of the modern Fire Brigade. These societies would only put out fires in houses which carried the 'badge' of their particular society. They must have needed some hard-hearted employees to leave a house insured by a rival firm to burn!



Church Army Press, Temple Road, Cowley



Doorway to the Above

Prayer Space

Lord, you are my hiding place,
A shelter from the storm,
I rest under the cover of your wing.

Your love is all around me,
Above me to uplift me,
Beneath me to support me,
Behind me to protect me,
Before me to guide me,
Around me to shield me,
Within me to strengthen me.

Lord, you are my hiding place,
This day and forever.

*A prayer by David Adam
(Former vicar of Lindisfarne)*

To you we come, God, our Creator
Strength in our weakness:
Light in our darkness:
Peace in our distress:
Peace with us always:
Support us when our hearts are heavy.

Comfort us when we feel alone.
Refresh us when life feels like a desert.
Be a home to us when we are as aliens in a
foreign land.
Lord as you abide with us, let us abide in you.
To you we come, God, our Creator.

*Taken from The Awesome Journey
by David Adam*

God made us a family.
We need one another.
We love one another.
We forgive one another.
We work together.
We play together.
We worship together.
Together we use God's word.
Together we grow in Christ.
Together we love all people.
Together we serve our God.
Together we hope for heaven.

REPORT OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 16 AUGUST 2023

The meeting on the 16 August 2023 was a very busy one. Discussion included:

1. A full report on the activities of the Anglican Asian Living Church was given by Sunita Masih (AALC).
2. A very detailed discussion on the finances of the Parish took place. There was great concern about the lower level of the balances taking into account the regular essential expenditure (Parish Share, insurances, inspections, electricity, gas, maintenance, etc) and the reduction in the amount of money being donated. This would be discussed with the congregations of both churches, and would be under discussion at future PCC meetings.

There was also some discussion on Gift Aid – further information was needed so this would be under discussion at a future meeting.

3. There was a review of the Ministry Team and Services, and an update on the training of curates, people investigating the Ministry and lay leadership for Liturgy. The use of organists at both churches was agreed, and the Rector was pleased to report that Alice Taylor would be returning to play. Living in Love and Faith was being considered by the General Synod in November, so this would be discussed further at the next meeting.
4. Both Church Committees had met and the list of required action by these committees was considered. A new fridge freezer was being provided at St Francis and a new freezer was being purchased for the Church Centre, both very much needed. In addition, the PCC agreed to the provision of a Card Reader and Donation Point at St Francis Church.
5. Sidespersons: The following were approved as Sidespersons:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| St Francis Church | St James Church |
| Shirley Costar | Rosanne Butler |
| Jane Coutache | Pat Chambers |
| Gwen Denny | Valerie Goodall |
| Esme Forbes | Christine Knevett |
| Lyn Lord | John Simmons |
| Elwira Lubos | June Smith |
| Norah Shallow | Lesley Williams |
| Maureen Stone | |
| Andrew Swallow | |
| Elsie Tshabalala | |
| Elaine Ulett | |

6. Administration of Holy Communion: The following were agreed:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Pat Chambers | Jo Duckles |
| Elwira Lubos | Sue Philcox |
| June Smith | Lesley Williams |
| Chris Woodman | |

7. The following policies were reviewed and agreed:

Safeguarding

Data Protection

Health and Safety

Parish Mission Prayer and Giving Policy

The PCC asked that the policies be put in The Cowley Chronicle – and Parish Mission Prayer and Giving Policy has been put in the September Chronicle as it is relevant to Harvest Giving.

More members are needed for the PCC and both Church Committees. Please let me know if you are interested if you would like to be co-opted onto any of these. Your help is needed.

Sally Hemsworth

PCC Secretary

HARVEST GIVING

I understand that it has been agreed that food collected in the churches at Harvest Festival will be given to the Community Emergency Foodbank (CEF).



CEF has been running for 15 years, opening twice a week at St Francis Church, Hollow Way, Cowley and in the Neighbourhood Centre in Barton and a further day at Littlemore Baptist Church. We provide non-perishable food for those in Oxford who are in crisis for whatever reason. Despite our Welfare System in this country many thousands of people still go hungry each day through debt, sickness, sudden job loss, addiction, marriage breakdown, delays in benefit or Benefit Sanctions and the recent rise in the cost of living has been difficult for many people. The numbers coming through our doors each month has doubled since last year.

We rely mainly on the generous giving of food from churches, individuals, businesses and supermarket collections. The demand on our food store is ongoing. Any help we can get from collections organised by your church will be most welcome.

The food we are in most need of at the moment is:

Bottled or tinned sauces

Long Life Milk

Tins of meat

Long Life Juice

Tins of Vegetables - Sweetcorn, Peas, Carrots etc

(no Tomatoes or Pulses)

Coffee and Chocolate (No Tea)

Tins of puddings

Tins of fish

Tins of fruit

Biscuits

Jams and other spreads

Rice (No Pasta)

Sugar

Cereals

Long Life Fruit Juice

Essential Toiletries/cleaning

Nappies

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Jane Benyon

The Community Emergency Food Bank

Phone: 01993 810622 Mobile: 07876 128435

www.cexford.co.uk

LIVING STONES

The heritage and education arm of Iffley Church, Living Stones, is currently finding out about people from the parish's past. For many centuries the parish of Iffley included parts of Cowley (eg Hockmore Street). There is an event on 10 September, which will be of interest to your congregation.

This is the second day of this year's 3-day festival in celebration of People who left their mark on Iffley Church. It is on Sunday 10th September at Iffley Church and Church Hall. The theme is:

THE VILLAGE PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES

Have you or your family been to Iffley Church at any time in the past 850 years? Come to the Church Hall for 2.30 to hear about some of the people who did, and drop into a Family History session between 4.00 and 5.00. Both sessions are FREE.

At 2.30 pm Dr Elizabeth Wells is speaking on 'Who do you think they were? Clues in Stone and Ink.'

At 4.00 pm she is hosting a participatory Family History exploration. Have you or anyone in your family been married, baptized or buried in Iffley Church? Bring your photos and your memories, your treasures and your stories. Learn how to find out more about your family's past and help build an archive of family histories around Rose Hill, Donnington, Cowley, Littlemore, Sandford and Iffley.

<https://livingstonesiffley.org.uk/events-1>

This event is part of Oxford Open Doors. There will be informal tours of the church, trails in the churchyard, access to the Glebe Field and tours of the bell-tower. (The bell tower has uneven stairs, no children under 8 years old).

<https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/events/st-marys-church-iffley-sunday-10th-september-1400-1700>.

You may also be interested in coming to the 3rd day of the Festival on Saturday 30 September when we will be hearing about A Solitary Worshipper, an Archdeacon and a Benefactor, each of whom left a lasting mark on Iffley Church. The Benefactor is Sarah Nowell whose educational charity still supports children in Cowley and Iffley.

I look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

Penny Tyack
Activity Co-ordinator LIVING STONES
50 Wytham Street
Oxford OX1 4TS
01865 251302
07813 692866

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Happy fortieth birthday to Harriet Stevens
on 27th September 2023.

ADVERTS FROM OLD COWLEY CHRONICLES

DR BARNARDO'S HOMES

93,000
orphan and destitute
and friendless children received.

7,280
now in residence—
the Largest Family in the World.

WILL YOU SEND

2/6
to the

**Annual Collection of Half-Crowns
for Bread and Butter?**

*Cheques, payable "Dr. Barnardo's Homes Fourster's
Day Fund" and crossed, may be addressed to the
Director; Rear-Admiral Sir Harry Sibleman (Deaf,
G.M.), 18 to 20, STEPNEY CAUSEWAY,
LONDON, E. 1.*

CHENEY OVER 50's CLUB

We are a social club open to anyone over the age of 50. Please come and visit us, make new friends.

Our meetings are on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30 at St James Parish Centre, Beauchamp Lane (near Cowley Centre) - many buses. We arrange guest speakers, indoor activities, outings and more.

There is no annual membership subscription, just £3 entrance fee including raffle, tea & biscuits.

Dates for 2023 are:

27 September 2023 - AGM with quiz & competition

25 October 2023 - Upper Thames Patrol

22 November 2023 - Arrangement of supermarket flowers, demonstration

December Christmas meal - TBA

GARDENING PARTY



HELP REQUIRED – COME AND BOOST THE NUMBERS LOOKING AFTER THE AREA AROUND ST JAMES CHURCH AND ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER) – 9.30 AM ONWARDS AT ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE.

Come and have fun, fresh air and exercise as we prepare the St. James Church Centre garden for another beautiful spring and summer showing. If possible bring your own tools but some will be available. Both heavy and light work available plus coffee and cake.

Link to online giving!



There is a button on our website which enables our supporters to make a one off payment online. It will take you to the 'give a little' web site where you can decide how much you would like to give. You can also scan this image and go straight there!

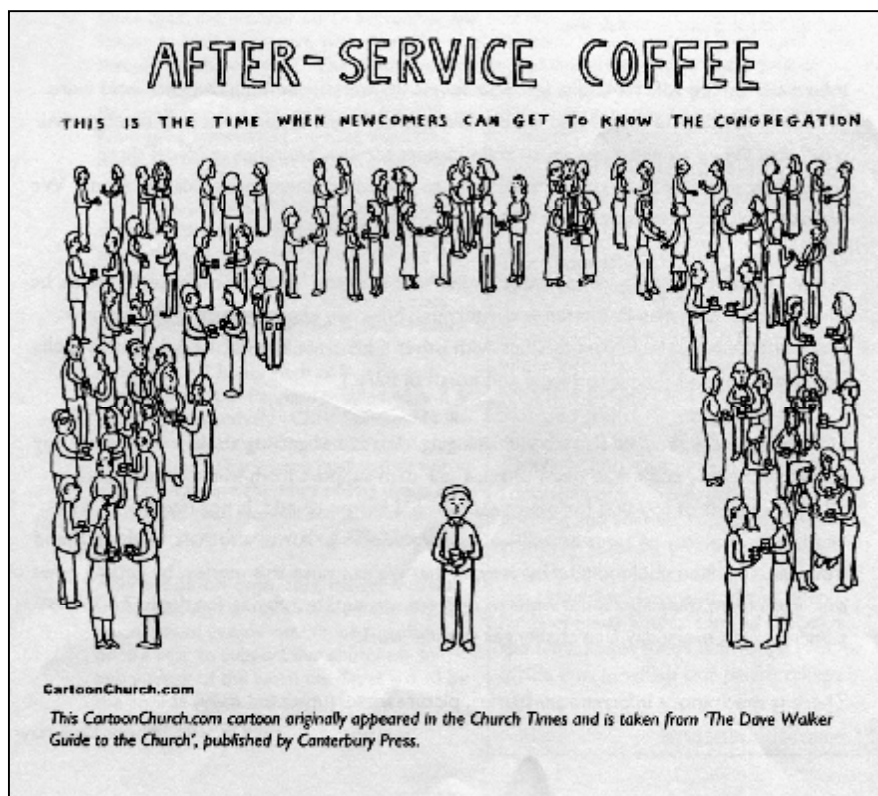


<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/49eef694-09d1-4ee3-8810-6ac86d972e6c>

SMILE

John Paton brought Christianity to the people of the Pacific Islands. He taught them about the love of God and faith. Years later, some Communists arrived. "You have listened to fables and lies," they told the islanders. "There is no God."

"You should thank the God you do not believe in," the Chief retorted. "For if you had arrived before Paton, we would have eaten you!"



FROM THE CHURCH WARDEN

It's hard to believe we are at the end of August. Although weekly activities were greatly reduced during part of July and August we have been busy spending time together in different ways.

In July Maureen Stone and I went to the Cathedral to be sworn in as Church Wardens for another year. It was a beautiful evening and we had drinks and nibbles in the garden and chatted with friends from other churches.

I was on holiday when we celebrated St James' Day on 23 July so sadly had to miss the service and bring and share lunch. I was told the church was well attended and, as always, the bring and share lunch was delicious.

The Saturday Cafes for July and August were well attended and we had visitors from other churches bell ringing during the August cafe and many cups of tea and coffee were consumed.

As Geoff and Liam were on holiday on Sunday 13 August we welcomed Alice Watson to preside at our 11 o'clock service and she was so pleased to come to us. It was a treat to welcome Alice Taylor back to play the organ and we hope she will be coming back as often as she can when her other commitments allow.

Jill and Ed were busy during August giving their time and energy to Quest. The children loved going around the church looking for clues and answering questions in and on different parts of the church and many thanks for all Jill and Ed did to make it a special time for many.

Thank you to Geoff and Mary who held their garden party on 26 August. As the weather was unpredictable it was held in the centre and many came and enjoyed a delicious cream tea. The doors were wide open and the sun did shine and we all went home feeling very well catered for.

And finally, we ended August with Messy Church which is a great occasion. We saw many of the children with mums, dads, grandparents and child minders who come to Seashells each week and it was lovely to catch up.

As September will be with us when you read this, the church and centre will be starting up their normal weekly activities. All will be put in The Link so we can keep up to date with all that is going on in both our churches.

Love and blessings
Chris Woodman

Caring & professional
Foot Health Practitioner

Routine nail trimming; corn & hard skin removal; diabetic foot care and advice; mildly ingrown, thickened and fungal nails

Home Visits or clinic appointments - Full PPE- sterilised instruments -insured & DBS checked

**Kate Reid MCFHP MAFHP
07952127534**

kate@nurturefootcare.co.uk

JOHN SHREEVE'S ARTICLES FROM THE PAST

LAMMASTIDE

September 2011

As we passed through our local countryside recently, we were pleased to see the farmers beginning to harvest their crops, perhaps a little earlier this year. Let us hope that the harvest is a good one, for if the worldwide market gets really difficult and money is still short, we may have to rely on our own home grown produce more and more. Of course, in olden times we *always* had to rely on what we could grow ourselves, and if the crops were poor everybody suffered. The rich people with large reserves were, as always, able to buy themselves out of trouble. However, the poor people, of whom there were a great many, really suffered when things were bad. They lived from hand to mouth – and had no reserves to turn to – nor money to buy elsewhere.

July, which for us nowadays is usually a nice gentle summer month, was for them a crucial, very critical month. As resources dwindled to nothing they had to forage around the countryside for oddments of fruit and vegetation that they could eat to stave off the pangs of hunger. Many of them died of starvation within sight of harvest time. The first cut of the harvest was *absolutely vital* to them, and so they wished to celebrate this in their own special way. They called the occasion LAMMAS DAY or LOAFMAS, and it was usually celebrated on 1st August or as near as possible to that date. Traditionally, loaves of bread baked with flour milled from the first grain of the year were taken into church as a thanksgiving.

Lammas tide is still celebrated in some country churches today. On this Sunday, the usual communion wafers might be replaced by a loaf baked by one of the congregation – and shared among the communicants. Special loaves made by the local baker's shop and shaped like a sheaf of wheat were sometimes on display near the altar in country parishes.

However, whether it is at Lammas tide or Harvest tide, we have so much to thank the good Lord for at this time of year.

John Shreeve

PAY AS YOU WISH/FREE LUNCHESES OF LOVE AT COMMUNITY CAFES IN COWLEY

WASTE2TASTE

Shotover View, Craufurd Road, OX4 2SQ

The first Friday of each month from 12:00-2:30

Live, join in music with Tim Keasley at 1:00

Café open from 9.30 for drinks and cakes

OCA KITCHEN COMMUNITY CAFÉ (Oxford Community Action)

The café at John Bunyan Church, Crowell Road, OX4 3LN

Café open Monday to Thursday 9:00 – 3:00

Free/pay as you wish lunch every Tuesday 12:30-2:00

SUPPORT PHONE NUMBERS

NEEDING ADVICE OR HELP? or just want to talk?

SOME USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Citizens Advice: | 08082 787 909 |
| Oxford City Council: | 01865 249 811 |
| Oxfordshire Mind: | 01865 247788 |
| Red Cross <i>coronavirus support line</i> : | 08081 963 651 |
| Samaritans <i>available 24/7</i> : | 116 123 |
| The Archway Foundation: | 01865 790 552 |
| Mental Health helpline <i>available 24/7</i> - NHS Oxford Health: | |
| Adults: | 01865 904 997 |
| Children/young people: | 01865 904 988 |
| Age UK—new telephone service for older people | 01865 411288 |

Have you been receiving a lot of scam calls on your phone, some of them quite scary? If you are concerned about them, you can obtain help by:

- phoning 03450 700 707 – that's a special department set up by the police *OR*
- Silver Lines, open 24 hrs for assistance on 08004 708 090 - this is a charity set up by Esther Rantzen, primarily to assist those elderly people in need of assistance and who live alone and are in fear of being abused.

DATES TO REMEMBER

The First Saturday Café

Saturday, 2 September 2023

10 – 12 noon St James Church

Art and Faith

Saturday, 2 September 2023, 10-12 noon
at St James Church Centre

Art and Faith is held the first Saturday of
each month

Oxford Open Doors/OHCC Ride and Stride

Saturday, 9 September 2023

10 am – 6 pm at St James Church and St
Francis Church

St Francis Church Committee

Sunday, 17 September 2023, after Church
Service

St James Church Committee

Wednesday, 20 September 2023, 2-4 pm
Ranklin Room, St James Church Centre

Autumn sale with bacon baps

Saturday, 23 September 2023, 11 am – 1 pm

St Francis Church

Harvest Thanksgiving Services at both
churches

Service Times as given in The Link

Parish Feast of St Francis with bring and share
lunch

Sunday, 1 October 2023

10.30 am St Francis Church

The First Saturday Café

Saturday, 7 October 2023

10 – 12 noon, St James Church

Art and Faith

Saturday, 7 October 2023, 10-12 noon at St
James Church Centre

Art and Faith is held the first Saturday of each
month

Messy Church

Monday, 23 October 2023

10 – 11.30 am, St Francis Church

FAIRTRADE - where are we with it as a Church and Parish?

Our Parish churches are now registered as 'Fairtrade Places of Worship'; we thus



- declare we are living by the Kingdom principles of caring for those who produce, process and
- transport our food and other goods. But we (*and 'we' means all of us*) must work harder to
- understand more about and respond to trading issues; the impact of climate change on essential
- crops and therefore livelihoods around the world (*that's serious*) and the role we can play in
- lobbying for fairer practice.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/In-your-community/Faith-Groups/>

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Fairtrade-Places-of-Worship-recommitment-guide-2021.pdf>

We confirm that we will stock the kitchen in both churches and St James Centre *only* with those fairtrade products which are readily available in the shops so *all such purchases for and donations to kitchen supplies should be Fairtrade, please*. Readily available are coffee, tea, sugar, chocolate, wine, biscuits. Best places to shop are the Co-op and Sainsbury's, as well as Headington Fairtrade. Yes, it may cost us a little more, but it saves others' lives and livelihoods.

Any non-Fairtrade donated items of goods which can easily be found in the shops will be graciously received but passed on to the Community Emergency Foodbank.

As a Fairtrade place of worship, we also commit to including the fair trade message regularly in our Parish literature, displays and services and promote it whenever applicable – so you will read about it monthly here!

A colorful poster for 'Community Meals of Love'. It features several overlapping circles and text boxes. The top left circle is orange and says 'PAY AS YOU FEEL COMMUNITY MEALS OF LOVE' with a heart icon and the date '01/09/23 12PM'. To its right is a yellow circle with 'Cafe Open : 9.30am to 2.30pm serving cakes and drinks only'. Further right is a green circle with 'WASTE 2 TASTE' and 'ALL WELCOME'. Below the orange circle is a green box with 'Bringing people together through monthly Community meals'. To the right of that is a blue circle with 'Music with Tim Keasley from 1pm'. Below the blue circle is a pink box with 'Where: Waste2Taste Shotover View, Craufurd Rd Oxford, OX4 2SQ'. At the bottom right is a pink box with 'Project funded By : Oxfordshire Community Foundation In partnership with the OX4 Fod Crew'. The bottom left has the 'bpha' logo. There are also two small images of chalkboards: one says 'FOOD WITH A CONSCIENCE THIS WAY' and the other says 'CAFE OPEN TO ALL'.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Our July summer party was, as ever, a great success. After our opening prayer we launched into our theme for the meeting – *Every Picture Tells a Story*. Members were asked to bring along a picture which was personal to them, and what a wide range of stories were told – from a little girl's first bicycle to a beach, from happy holiday friendships to a complete family photograph saga.

Tea was delicious. We were happy to entertain friends from Littlemore who had made us so welcome at their church earlier in the year. Finally, we discussed our new programme which begins in September.

The September meeting will be most interesting, as our new curate Josh Hordern will be our speaker. He has promised to talk about his journey of faith.

We are planning another of our popular *Quiz and Tea Party* afternoons, the profit from which goes to the Mother's Union initiative 'Away From it All'. This is a worthwhile cause which we are fully committed to supporting.

We are looking towards a date in October for the quiz when everyone is invited to join in the fun. Watch this space for the date and time of the quiz.

Rosanne Butler

Power House: Praying for our world

When we pray together, we experience God's presence

- For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 (NLT)
- Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)



7:15 Thursday

St James Church: St Luke's Chapel



St. James' schoolchildren in the playground - May 1960

Having taught at that dear little school between 1960 and 1972 I thought it would be fun to share with readers some of the stories and experiences of those very happy years. First of all, I'd better explain how I found the position in the first place (or even how it found me).

With three years teaching experience under my belt and a honeymoon just behind me in July 1959, I visited the Local Education Office to see if there might be a teaching post in Oxford for which I might apply. I was told "No, none I'm afraid, but you might like to go on the supply list" – to which I readily agreed.

The supply list is a list of qualified teachers prepared to do temporary work in schools where a member of staff is absent. Nothing turned up until a letter arrived just before Christmas offering me a full term's work beginning in January 1960 at New Marston Primary School – *perfect!*

I loved it there although it was a very big school and I had always been drawn to little schools – having attended a tiny village school as a child. Whilst at Marston I learned that a young teacher at St. James' School in Cowley was moving into my post, and that would leave a vacancy at the school in Cowley. By then my new husband and I had found a little flat in the Cowley Road, so if I could get this job it would be perfect. I applied and was called for an interview. Dressed in my smart interview suit complete with hat and gloves (oh yes, it was all very formal in those days) I caught the Number One bus in Cowley Road and travelled to the Cowley terminus which until a few months before had been at the Coronation Lamp. As I got off the bus, I asked the conductor if he could direct me to Beauchamp Lane, only I had pronounced Beauchamp in the French way and he had no idea what I was talking about! Someone called from the back of the bus "*She means Beechum*".

Anyway, I walked through to Beauchamp Lane past lots of small houses and shops, all empty as the area was about to be cleared to make way for a big new shopping centre – and found my way up to the little school. Standing in the playground were two tall men, one of whom was wearing a dog collar. They greeted me with the news that the school was locked!

The staff and children were at the top of the lane finishing off mid-day lunch in the old huts and the headmaster came running down past the old church reaching into his pockets for the keys.

However, he soon realised that he didn't have them and had locked the door with the keys still inside. *Disaster!* What to do??

The gentleman in the dog collar – who turned out to be Father Whye, (chairman of the school governors) suggested that he had a ladder in the vicarage garage and as a small window in the staff room appeared to be open, the headmaster could fetch the said ladder, climb up and get through the window and let us in. By this time all thoughts of my interview had flown out of my head and I had a fit of the giggles.

At last we got into the building and I was called into the staff room / headteacher's office where Father Whye, Mr Garne, (Chief Education Officer for Oxford City), and Mr Alexander, (the very flustered Head) were waiting to interview me. It was a very undemanding experience as the main topic was the teaching of reading, one of my biggest passions. I was told at the end that the post was mine. (I found out later that I was the *only* applicant, so there was no contest, was there?)

Now I had better explain why nobody else had applied for the post. There were two elderly ladies on the staff, both of whom had worked at the school for many years.

One afternoon a Headteacher's conference was called at the Education Office, so the (comparatively) new headmaster had gone, leaving these two ladies in charge.



Miss Bullock with her class at St. James' School

All was well until the end of the afternoon break when the bell was rung to bring the children in for the last session of the day. Miss Bullock stood at the front door, rang the bell and was about to call the children in when Miss Dyer stormed out demanding that '*it was her place to bring the children in*' – and a huge row ensued.

All this had happened months before I joined the staff. The result of this incident was that these two ladies refused to speak to each other again and the atmosphere in the staffroom was *caustic*. I can only imagine in a staff of only four people what it must have been like. Word had got around of course, and it was no wonder that the vacant post at the little school had only one applicant – ME!!

More next month.

Rosanne Butler

PARISH MISSION PRAYER AND GIVING POLICY

Our declared Parish mission statement

to live out God's purposes for us
to make Christ known in Cowley
to raise up a new generation to love and serve the Lord

only directly references our life in Cowley, ignoring our responsibilities to creation and to our worldwide brothers and sisters.

When time allows, the PCC will consult, review and add to that declared vision to include a wider view of our mission stance in relation to : creation, the environment, humanitarian issues – to develop our knowledge and understanding of our role in and impact on God's creation and people.

The Parish is establishing a deeper mission relationship with a limited number of charities through the year. We demonstrate our Christian Love through action, prayer and giving; also responding as a Parish to major natural and humanitarian disaster appeals.

Christian Aid : is a year-round commitment with a special focus on Christian Aid Week in May. We no longer undertake a door to door envelope collection but aim to find creative ways of gathering donations both from Parish members and the public during CAW and through other events – Big Brekkie, Quiz Aid and occasional lunches and sponsored activities

Harvest thanksgiving : we commit to giving food items to CEF and cash to Water Aid every year, so seek to share more information about their work from speakers and leaflets/ websites/ media. We will engage with them by praying for them regularly, not just on one autumn Sunday a year. We maintain all year collection points in both churches for donated goods to CEF, which is based at St Francis church

Christmas : our Cowley Christmas tree festival relationship with SeeSaw and ROSY demonstrates our recognition of the instruction to 'suffer these little children to come to me'.

Following annual PCC approval, all Christmas service open plate collections will be added to the CTF donations, shared equally between the two charities.

We value our Parish relationship with/involvement in : OWNS (Oxford Winter Night Shelter), BeSpace (prayer spaces in schools) and Open the Book and support them with personnel, prayer and donations. The Parish Mothers' Union also fundraises for the national MU and provides knitted items to the Oxford Children's Hospital. We coordinate filled Christmas gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

The Parish maintains the donation of 5% of annual planned giving to parishioner nominated Christian causes, ensuring that everyone learns about the recipient causes' work and that we pray for them. It is another great, exciting statement of thanksgiving for all that we receive from our Father.

We maintain our own Parish fundraising to cover the costs of worship, fellowship, outreach

and buildings through stewardship, planned giving and annual events : Plant sale, Christmas gift and craft fair, Caribbean evening and other small scale social occasions.

First agreed by PCC: 14 July 2019 Reviewed Annually
Last PCC Review: 16 August 2023

SAFEGUARDING IN COWLEY PARISH

We intend that St James, St Francis and the Anglican Asian Living Church will be safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse, including domestic violence and bullying.

We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust in our churches.

We follow "statute, guidance and recognised good practice" in all our safeguarding procedures and check that all users of our premises also agree to do so.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – *please be sure to report anything you observe that worries you about someone's safety or wellbeing whilst at church or on-line.*

Lesley Williams 01865 779 562 07982 439 828
safeguarding@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

THOUGHTS

The Other Side of the Door

A very sick man visited his doctor in a small rural village. As he was leaving, he suddenly blurted out: "Doctor, I'm afraid to die. You go to church on Sundays, tell me what lies on the other side".

Very quietly the doctor said, "I don't know".

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, don't know what's on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the door handle. On the other side of the door came a whining and scratching. He opened the door and the patient's spaniel sprang into the room and leapt on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice your dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

"I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I *do* know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough. When the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear, but with *gladness!*

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST JAMES CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

ST FRANCIS CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 8.00am | St James |
| 9.30am | St Francis |
| 11.00am | St James |

MID-WEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

| | | |
|---------|---------------|---|
| Monday | 10.00-11.30am | Little Stars Playgroup— St Francis |
| Tuesday | 10.00am | Seashells Toddler Group— St James Church Centre |
| | 12.30pm | Tuesday Lunch Club, St James Church Centre (numbers limited—booking essential. If interested con- tact Chris Woodman) |

HOME AND STUDY GROUPS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Mark Oxbrow | Alternate Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, Mark's home, 13 Annesley Road (just behind the Rose Hill Co- op). Enquiries to Mark at 01865 461953 |
| Rosanne Butler | Alternate Thursday mornings, 10- 11.30.. <i>Contact Rosanne 01865 453257</i> |



The Parish Office in St James Church Centre is staffed by volunteers and is not covered continually.

Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Contact details: Tel: 01865 747680

Email: office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Out of hours tel: 01865 778596

Website: www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk

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The Revd Canon Dr Geoffrey Bayliss

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Revd Liam Cartwright

Email: cowleycurate@gmail.com

Revd Josh Hordern

Self-supporting Ministers

Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow

01865 461953

Email: markoxbrow@aol.com

Revd Max Diaz Butron

Email: maxdiazbutron@icloud.com

Churchwardens:

Christine Woodman Tel: 778078

Maureen Stone Tel 747950

St James Church Centre Manager:

Chris Woodman Tel: 778078

Hall Bookings:

St James Church Centre, St James Church, St Francis Church: Please contact the Parish Office Tel: 747680

Cowley Chronicle—Editorial Team:

Sally Hemsworth, Nicki Stevens

Articles to be emailed to:

office@cowleyteamministry.co.uk

Paper contributions to the Parish Office.